

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IGA-02

AID-20 MC-02 ACDA-19 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COA-02 DRC-01

/142 W

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P R 042247Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1245

INFO CNO WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

DOD WASHDC

USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 3695

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, EFIS, BEXP, EC, US

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO THE ECUADOREAN NAVY

REFS: A) QUITO 1798 (NOTAL)

B) CNO 061548Z (NOTAL)

C) QUITO 2671 (NOTAL)

D) QUITO 2802 (NOTAL)

E) QUITO 3206 (NOTAL)

F) STATE 89240 (NOTAL)

G) QUITO DAO 302215Z MAY '74 (NOTAL)

1. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO RECAPITULATE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ECUADOR'S REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE TO ITS NAVY AND RECOMMEND A COURSE OF ACTION TO RESPOND FURTHER TO THESE REQUESTS.

2. REFERENCE A OUTLINED THE BACKGROUND OF RECENT DEVELOP-
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MENTS IN US/ECUADOREAN RELATIONS, DESCRIBED STEPS TAKEN

TO REESTABLISH MILITARY SUPPLY AND TRAINING RELATIONSHIPS FOLLOWING THE LIFTING OF FMS SANCTIONS AND, AFTER DISCUSSING THE PROS AND CONS OF DOING SO, RECOMMENDED A FIRM COMMITMENT ON OUR PART TO SELL TWO DESTROYERS TO ECUADOR. REF B CONTAINS THE TEXT OF AN APRIL 6 LETTER OF USCNO TO ECUADOREAN CNO WHICH, WITH MINOR MODIFICATIONS, WAS DELIVERED APRIL 26 PER REF D. THAT LETTER OFFERED GOE TRANSFER OF ONE "HOT SHIP" DESTROYER IN FY-76, POSSIBLY AS EARLY AS JULY 1975, PLUS ONE DESTROYER FROM OUR INACTIVE FLEET TO BE REACTIVATED AND OVERHAULED TO GOE SPECIFICATIONS. LETTER ALSO STATED WE WERE PREPARED TO CONSIDER TRANSFER OF TWO PCF'S AND A HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY BOAT LOCATED IN PANAMA, ALTHOUGH PURSUANT TO INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REF F AUTHORIZING DELIVERY OF LETTER, WE AVOIDED INDICATING ANY DELIVERY DATE FOR PATROL CRAFT.

3. REF E REPORTED ECUADOREAN CNO ADMIRAL VASQUEZ' MAY 14 REPLY TO ADMIRAL ZUMWALT'S LETTER. IT CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING SHIP REQUESTS:

A. ONE "HOT SHIP" DESTROYER IN FY-76 AS OFFERED BY CNO LETTER;

B. TRANSFER ANOTHER "HOT SHIP" DESTROYER IN FY-76 RATHER THAN A VESSEL FROM THE INACTIVE FLEET AS OFFERED;

C. US CONSIDERATION OF THE TRANSFER OF TWO ADDITIONAL "HOT SHIP" DESTROYERS IF POSSIBLE IN THE SAME FY-76 OR LATER;

D. ONE LST (LANDING SHIP TANK);

E. THREE PG (PATROL CRAFT) UNITS;

F. ONE AO UNIT (FLEET OILER);

G. ONE AFDB (FLOATING DRYDOCK); AND

H. ONE AGOR (OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH VESSEL).

4. REF G OUTLINED THE VESSELS WHICH WOULD BE STRUCK FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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THE CURRENT ECUADOREAN NAVY SHIP INVENTORY ON PRACTICALLY A ONE-TO-ONE BASIS IF AND WHEN THE FOREGOING SHIP REQUESTS ARE MET.

5. WE RECOGNIZE THAT A COMPLETE REPLY TO ADMIRAL VASQUEZ' LETTER (REF E) WOULD REQUIRE EXTENSIVE STUDY AND WILL BE AFFECTED BY FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS (OR THE ABSENCE OF THEM.) IT MAY, THEREFORE, BE PREFERABLE TO GIVE THE ECUADOREANS

A CONCRETE REPLY NOW TO THOSE PARTS OF THEIR REQUEST WHICH CAN BE ANSWERED PROMPTLY, ADVISING THEM THAT THE REMAINDER OF THEIR REQUEST IS UNDER STUDY.

6. BEFORE MAKING SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO WHICH ITEMS WE BELIEVE SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED AND ACCORDING TO WHAT SCHEDULE, A FEW GENERAL COMMENTS MAY BE IN ORDER. WE DO NOT WANT TO RECAPITULATE THE ARGUMENTS FOR ASSISTING THE EN. THEY HAVE BEEN EXTENSIVELY AIRED IN REFS A AND C. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, LIKE TO MAKE THE OBSERVATION THAT WE BELIEVE THE EN'S SHIP REQUESTS TO BE REASONABLE ON THE WHOLE. OUR ONLY AREA OF DOUBT IS THE REQUEST FOR TWO MORE DESTROYERS THAN ORIGINALLY REQUESTED, AND MORE SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE FOURTH DESTROYER. NEVERTHELESS, THE EN SAYS IT PLANS TO LAY OFF EXISTING INVENTORY AS THESE NEW ACQUISITIONS ARE MADE. THUS, IN EFFECT, THE EN WANTS TO UPGRADE RATHER THAN SIGNIFICANTLY EXPAND ITS FORCE STRUCTURE AND, FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE AT LEAST, WE CAN SEE LITTLE DANGER THAT SATISFYING THESE ECUADOREAN EQUIPMENT REQUESTS WOULD AFFECT THE STRATEGIC BALANCE ON THE LATIN AMERICAN WEST COAST.

7. WE BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT WHILE OUR RESPONSE TO GOE REQUESTS SHOULD BE GENERALLY FORTHCOMING, OUR REPLY (OR REPLIES) AND ACTIONS SHOULD NONETHELESS STRING DELIVERIES OUT TO OPTIMIZE OUR OWN INTERESTS. THESE INTERESTS INCLUDE REINFORCING THE FAVORABLE TREND WHICH SEEMS TO BE DEVELOPING BETWEEN OUR TWO NAVIES BY ESTABLISHING OURSELVES AS A DEPENDABLE LONG-TERM SUPPLIER AND TRAINER AND, MORE IMPORTANT, THEREBY REINFORCING THE HAND OF THOSE WITHIN THE EN WHO HAVE BEEN COUNSELLING RESTRAINT VIS-A-VIS THE US IN SUCH MATTERS AS FISHING POLICY. AS A COROLLARY, WE WOULD NOT WANT DELIVERIES TO BE SO CONFIDENTIAL

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PRECIPITATE THAT ONCE THEY HAVE TAKEN PLACE THE EN-S INTEREST IN CONTINUED GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WITH US WOULD DIMINISH. A STEADY AND STAGED SUPPLY AND TRAINING RELATIONSHIP SEEMS TO BE WHAT IS IN OUR INTEREST.

8. WITH THESE THOUGHTS IN MIND, I RECOMMEND THAT OUR INITIAL RESPONSE TO RADM VASQUEZ BE IN TWO PARTS: FIRST A DEFINITIVE, POSITIVE REPLY FOR THOSE VESSLES WHERE WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE A FIRM COMMITMENT NOW AND, SECOND, A REPLY TO THE EFFECT THAT WE HAVE THE BALANCE OF THE EN'S REQUESTS UNDER STUDY.

9. WITHIN THE FOREGOING FRAMEWORK I RECOMMEND THAT I BE AUTHORIZED TO ADVISE RADM VASQUEZ THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE A FIRM COMMITMENT ON THE FOLLOWING

OF THEIR REQUESTS WITH THE DELIVERY DATES INDICATED:

ONE LST - MID-FY-75

ONE "HOT SHIP" DESTROYER - EARLY FY-76 AND PREFERABLY JULY

ONE "HOT SHIP" DESTROYER - MID-FY-76

ONE AGOR - MID-FY-76

ONE PG (PATROL CRAFT) - FY-76

10. CONCURRENTLY WE WOULD ADVISE EN THAT ITS REQUEST FOR TWO ADDITIONAL DESTROYERS, TWO PGS, A FLEET OILER AND A FLOATING DRYDOCK, IS UNDER CONSIDERATION, ALTHOUGH THIS REQUIRES DECISIONS IN REGARD TO SHIP AVAILABILITIES WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN MADE.

1. THE FOREGOING RECOMMENDATIONS ARE PERFORCE BASED ON A VERY LIMITED KNOWLEDGE ON OUR PART OF PRECISE VESSEL AVAILABILITIES. FOR EXAMPLE, WE SIMPLY DO NOT KNOW WHETHER A REQUEST FOR A TOTAL OF FOUR "HOT SHIP" DESTROYERS OVER A TWO YEAR PERIOD IS REALISTIC IN TERMS OF OUR WORLD-WIDE RESOURCES. OUR THOUGHTS HAVE, THEREFORE BEEN TAILORED TO WHAT WE THINK WOULD BE A SUITABLE RESPONSE IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC US INTERESTS HERE AND
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EXISTING GUIDELINES (E.G. NO COMMITMENT TO DELIVERY OF PATROL CRAFT BEFORE DECEMBER/JANUARY FY-75 TIME FRAME.) FINALLY, WE CONTINUE TO BEAR IN MIND THAT RENEWAL OF FISHING BOAT SEIZURES AT ANY TIME IN THIS PROCESS WOULD REQUIRE THAT WE REVIEW SHIP TRANSFERS.

12. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON FOREGOING IS REQUESTED. IF WASHINGTON AGENCIES CONCUR, IT IS REQUESTED THAT I BE AUTHORIZED TO REPLY TO EN ALONG THE LINES RECOMMENDED IN PARAS 9 AND 10 ABOVE.
BREWSTER

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